The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1911, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

VOL. 8. NO. 28. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1918. WHOLE NO. 392.

PROPHETS ARE FOOLED BY PRESIDENT GOMPERS

Washington, Oct. 5. — President Gompers fooled the prophets who assured the world that he was going to England to "split the British Labor party," etc., etc.

President Gompers ignored the prophets. He announced the purpose of the A. F. of L. special mission to Europe and started on his way. That he has been successful in presenting to British and French workers the war program of President Wilson, which American trade unionists accept, is nowhere denied.

English and Scottish newspapers received at A. F. of L. headquarters make the prophets' claim look ridiculous.

At Glasgow, Scotland, newspaper men interviewed President Gompers. He said he "was not going to criticise the labor movement of Great Britain," and clearly intimated that the workers of Great Britain—and elsewhere—are competent to handle their internal affairs.

In reply to a question relative to details in connection with the solution of an after-the-war question, President Gompers said:

"I have no right to speak in the name of the government and the president of the United States. When the president has something to say, he finds means of communicating it."

OVERSEAS CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The war department has issued the following rules for the sending of Christmas gifts to soldiers overseas:

"The war department authorizes relatives or friends of officers and soldiers in France to send Christmas packets, which will be of standard size and weight, one to each individual in the American expeditionary forces. A standard container to be used will be 9 by 4 by 3 inches, and the weight limit will be three pounds. Standard containers of the size indicated may be had by application to the local red cross chapters throughout the country.

"In order to assure the arrival of these Christmas packages in France and their distribution to the soldiers by Christmas, all such packages must be mailed on or before November 15, 1918.

"In order to insure the limitation of one package per man, which in itself will consume a very large amount of tonnage, a plan has been worked out by which Gen. Pershing is forwarding to the war department coupons on which are inscribed the correct names and addresses of the members of the American expeditionary forces. These coupons will be distributed, and no package will be forwarded without a coupon."

Secretary of the Navy Daniels has ruled that Christmas gifts for men in the naval service, both in home waters and abroad, must be shipped in substantial boxes with hinged or screw top cover to facilitate opening and inspecting. Boxes shipped by express are limited to 20 pounds in weight, and packages for vessels abroad should be shipped so as to reach New York as early as possible and not later than November 15.

LESS PRISON POPULATION.

Boston, Oct. 5.—The demand for workers has affected the population of Massachusetts prisons and a plan is now being discussed to reduce the number of county jails. It is stated that some jails are without enough inmates to perform the menial tasks incidental to their maintenance.

Outside of this county the number of men and women serving decreased between Sept. 1, 1915, and Sept. 1 of this year from 3,265 to 1,639, due wholly to the war. Habitual offenders of both sexes have in hundreds of instances been reclaimed through the instrumentality of steady employment at remunerative wages.

The Newburyport jail has nine prisoners, entailing an annual cost of $9,000. The Hampshire county jail, which has accommodations for 88 prisoners, now has but 19. The Franklin county jail at Greenfield has 67 cells and 17 prisoners. The Berkshire county jail at Pittsfield, built for 120 prisoners, has 46. These three jails could be closed and the inmates cared for at the Hampden county jail in Springfield, according to those who are drafting a bill which will ask the legislature to place county jails and all other corrective institutions under the direct supervision of the state bureau of prisons.

CHEAT IN TOMATOES.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The war department has discovered that many cans of tomatoes furnished the soldiers are filled only to three-fourths of an inch at the top, although weighing the specified amount. Instructions have been issued that regardless of weight the cans are to be filled within three-eighths of an inch of the top. If the cans are not filled up to one-half an inch of the top, there is to be a re-adjustment of the prices, and under no circumstances will slack filled cans be sent overseas.

It has been figured that if this saving of three-eighths of an inch were made in all No. 2 cans of tomatoes purchased by the army for one year it would total 417,000 cases of tomatoes, costing approximately $1,500,000. The saving in tin plate used in these tin cans would amount to 7,000,000 square feet.

N. Y. LIVING COSTS SOAR.

Washington, Oct. 5.—Investigators of the bureau of labor statistics surveying the cost of living in principal industrial centers report that the cost in the New York district is 62.07 per cent greater than it was in December, 1914, and 17.29 per cent greater than in December, 1917.

Clothing there has advanced 108.29 per cent since December, 1914; food, 65.40 per cent; furniture and furnishings, 104.65 per cent, and housing, 5.82 per cent.

Living costs advanced 67 per cent in Philadelphia during the same period and 65.34 per cent in Boston.

NEW YORK TAILORS STRIKE.

New York, Oct. 5.—Several hundred ladies' tailors' shops are affected by a strike to enforce a 20 per cent wage increase. These workers are affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. They have been assured by police authorities that their right to picket will not be interfered with.

CIGAR MAKERS STRIKE.

McSherrystown, Pa., Oct. 5.—Wage increases of from $1 to $2 a thousand cigars are demanded by Cigar Makers' union No. 316, whose members have suspended work to enforce these rates. Cigar makers in other localities near this place have taken like action.

FORCED ARBITRATION LOSING IN AUSTRALIA

Washington, Oct. 5.—According to Australian labor papers, received at A. F. of L. headquarters, the feverish campaign in favor of compulsory arbitration has spent its force in that far-away country and trade unionists are now condemning a scheme that some American capitalists favor "because it works in Australia."

In his annual report J. S. Garden, secretary of the Sydney (New South Wales) trades and labor council, rejected this system. "I am convinced," he said, "that arbitration as we have it today is a farce. It is one-sided. The onus is always thrown upon organized labor to prove that wages should be increased. Labor is dissatisfied and is looking for new methods in place of the spurious article we have today in the name of arbitration."

The Daily Herald, published by organized labor at Adelaide, South Australia, refers to compulsory arbitration as "an enervating expedient."

"It is somewhat remarkable," says this paper, "that while we in Australia are concerning ourselves with schemes for improving our laws with regards to industrial arbitration, other countries are determined to have nothing to do with the subject." In support of this view the editor refers to the attitude of the American trade union movement and to the Whitley (British) commission on after-war industry, which "decided against compulsory arbitration on the ground that neither the employe nor employer desired it, and that it had not proved successful in avoiding strikes in war time."

These Australian statements are of interest to American trade unionists because they support the consistent fight against compulsory arbitration that has been waged for years by the A. F. of L.

CANADIAN UNIONS MEET.

Quebec, Canada, Oct. 5.—At the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada it was voted to ask the Dominion government to grant old age pensions. Other declarations were: Petition provincial governments to make it compulsory for children to attend school until the age of 16; that the law grading stationary engineers in Ontario be suspended until the soldiers come home; that the label of the Allied Printing Trades Council be placed on all printing done by the Dominion labor department; that the manufacture of clothes in the homes of workers be stopped; that federal and provincial departments of health be created; that a licensing board be established for Ontario electrical engineers; that a $12 a week minimum for women be established throughout the Dominion; that private employment agencies be abolished; that equal pensions be granted to all ranks of soldiers in proportion to their disabilities; that free and compulsory education be established in Quebec.

The convention refused to petition the government to release men sent to prison under the military service act who claim that they are conscientious objectors.

The convention elected Thomas Moore of Niagara Falls, Ontario, to succeed J. C. Watters as president. Secretary-Treasurer Draper was re-elected.

The new president is general organizer of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

CHILD LABOR IS COSTLY.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 5.—The state industrial commission has ordered the Invincible Metal Furniture company of Monroe to pay a boy $1,041.30 compensation for the loss of parts of three fingers while employed on a punching shears. This is nearly $700 more than the company would have to pay if it obeyed the state law prohibiting the employment of children under 16. For this reason the award was trebled and the company will have to pay two-thirds of the award and the insurance company pays only the regular amount.

The commission stated that "it is finding altogether too many accidents resulting to children working without permits or working at prohibited employments. When we consider that there is a comparatively small percentage of employes who sustain compensable injuries, it is made apparent that there is a pronounced disregard of the laws governing child employment."

MINERS ARE IMPORTANT.

Washington, Oct. 5.—So important is the mining industry to the success of the war that, according to word which has reached the department of labor, the British government plans to return 10,000 miners to their work, releasing them from the army because of the urgent need of their services at home.

Great Britain, according to some indications, is in danger of a coal shortage, and efforts are being made to speed up production. The output per man in England is not, from figures at present available, as good as in this country, where more coal has been mined than ever before despite depletion of labor power through enlistment and the draft.

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 5.—War conditions was the argument used by Bookbinders' union No. 2 to secure a wage increase of $2 a week, although it has an agreement with employers.

Boston, Oct. 5.—Employing bookbinders in this city and vicinity have raised wages of their men employes $2 a week and their women employes $1.50.

St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 5.—An arbitration board has indorsed the wage demand of Bookbinders' union No. 179—$28 a week for foremen and $24 for journeymen.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, Oct. 5.—Organized painters have raised wages $3 a week.

Toronto, Canada, Oct. 5.—Employing painters, who refused last year to accept the wage scale of Painters' union No. 151 are now in line. Their failure to secure competent workers forced them to change front.

"OBJECTORS" PLACED.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The war department is sifting the sincere and insincere "conscientious objectors" to war. They are beng put to work on farms and in non-combatant military service in the army.

JOURNEYMEN TAILORS WIN.

Augusta, Ga., Oct. 5.—Journeymen Tailors' union No. 256 has secured an agreement which provides for wage increases and improved working conditions.

STEEL TRUST CLINGS TO FEUDALISM

Washington, Oct. 5.—In response to a request by the Survey Magazine for his views on the steel trust's adoption of the basic eight-hour day, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison wrote:

"The announcement of a basic eight-hour day by the United States steel corporation merely means that this trust will pay, as wages, a larger portion of profits that have been the marvel of the industrial world.

"According to the public press of September 25, Mr. Gary, chairman of the board of directors, United States steel corporation, says time and one-half will be paid for over eight hours and 'the open shop plan heretofore in force throughout the works will be continued.'

"Organized labor's demand for an eight-hour day is not because of a desire for higher wages, but because of health conservation. The verdict in support of this position is so unanimous and complete that citations are unnecessary. Our added point, that production is increased, is also indorsed by employers who have applied the test.

"The steel corporation's basic eight-hour day and the trade unionists' eight-hour day have no similarity. In the former case, the worker continues his long workday, being paid extra for over eight hours, and in the latter case, eight hours is a day's work except in case of an emergency.

"While the steel corporation makes an apparent concession to public opinion that has been developed by trade union agitation, it will be noticed that Mr. Gary retains mastery over his employes, who are permitted, as individuals, to call on the finance committee and the board of directors of the United States steel corporation to redress any grievance they may have.

"With perfect propriety, Mr. Gary might have made this additional statement: 'We hope that this wage increase will convince our employes that collective bargaining is unnecessary, and that the organizing campaign now being conducted by the A. F. of L. throughout our plants will be negatived.'

"The 'open shop' attracted some attention a few years ago but the public is now acquainted with its pretense. It is a refuge for employers who demand control over the lives of their employes.

"Mr. Gary's 'open shop,' which is an economic impossibility, is so at variance with the principles of the national war labor board, which has been proclaimed by the president as part of the nation's program in its war for democracy, that it seems like a voice from the tomb and recalls the days of yesterday when employers talked of 'their right to run their own business.' Mr. Gary will raise wages, as this corporation must dispose of its princely profits, and he will profess allegiance to the eight-hour day, but the bona fide eight-hour day can not be enforced while his employes are unorganized. With collective bargaining the basic eight-hour day means something. The national war labor board, it will be noticed, makes provision for this when it orders the basic eight-hour day.

"The trade union movement will continue its efforts to secure for employes of the United States steel corporation the right of collective bargaining. As the kaiser's last trench will be the hardest for our American troops to capture, so the trade union movement appreciates that it will take time before the last trench of American industrial autocracy is evacuated by those who would have us believe that political liberty and industrial feudalism can fit in the frame work of our national institutions.

"The trade union movement insists that high wages and kind masters is not democracy."

ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS HAVE NOT SAME STATUS

Sedalia, Mo., Oct. 5.—While in accord with Director General of Railroads McAdoo's plan to take this transportation system out of politics, the Railway Federationist, official newspaper of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, expresses the belief that the director's "no politics" order will be used by private interests to re-establish private control of the roads after the war, "because," says this paper, "the employes who have and are now loyally supporting the director general will not be in a position to use their political power in defending the government, for they will have lost interest in political affairs as a result of his recent order."

The Railway Federationist does not entirely agree with Mr. McAdoo that he "is also a servant of the public, owing a duty to the public as well as the employes."

"This is true," says the Railway Federationist, "but there is a vast difference in the relationship towards the public as between the employes and the public and Mr. McAdoo and the public. As director of railroads Mr. McAdoo possesses almost unlimited powers. He can, by the mere issuance of an order, take from the employes all the rights and privileges it required them years to secure under private ownership.

"Mr. McAdoo was hired by a president who holds his job for a period of four years and who cannot be removed except through impeachment proceedings, while the employe holds his job only so long as his services are necessary to the operation of the railroads. One holds his job through political success, the other holds his job through economic stress. The one possesses the power to hire and fire, the other has only the privilege of being hired and fired.

"The one can retain his job by continuing his party in power, through political action, the other can retain his job only so long as he has economic power, through force of numbers, to compel consideration of his rights and demands.

"It is quite true that Mr. McAdoo and the officers and employes are now all servants of the public, but it is also true that their status as employes of the public is quite different."

OFFICIALS AID GUN MEN.

Belleville, Ill., Oct. 5.—Over 2,000 citizens have petitioned State Attorney General Brundage to investigate the manner in which 35 strikebreakers and gun men employed by the Orbon Stove & Range company were permitted to be released from custody after they had shot into a crowd and wounded six persons.

The strikebreakers were imported last May and immediately started to shoot up the town under the pretense of "protecting property." The posse was arrested and bail was set by a police magistrate, who was instructed over the telephone by company officials to release their "employes" and they would arrange for the bail the next morning. The magistrate obeyed and the gun men disappeared. The company officials have ignored their promise. Citizens have urged St. Clair county authorities to start a suit against officials of the Orbon company to enforce the collection of the bonds, and the state's attorney general is now asked to use his office to the end that law may be re-established in this county.

UNION PLEADS FOR MOONEY.

San Francisco, Oct. 5.—The central labor council has asked Governor Stephens to set a date when oral hearings can be heard on the case of Thomas J. Mooney, now under sentence of death. When the governor, last July, reprieved Mooney until December 13, he said he took this action so that he might have time to study the case. The unionists now suggest that an oral hearing, publicly held, would benefit the state executive and the people generally. In the event the governor accepts the suggestion, the central labor council authorized its special Mooney committee to present labor's side. The state federation of labor was asked to assign one of its officials for the same purpose so that the entire organized movement of California would be represented.

TO PROTECT BOND HOLDERS.

Chicago, Oct. 5.—At the convention of the American Bankers' association a committee was appointed to present a plan that would protect small liberty bond holders from brokers who induce them to exchange their holdings for worthless paper.

It was stated that $400,000,000 worth of liberty bonds have been exchanged for this worthless stock, which finds an easy market among people whose liberty bond is the first note of this kind they ever held.

URGE "TEAM WORK."

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 5.—Officials of the Miners' union have visited the various locals in the newly organized Fairmont district and appealed to these workers to produce coal to the limit and under no consideration stop work, as provision is made in the contract with operators to settle all grievances.

O. K. CITY MANAGER PLAN.

Richmond, Va., Oct. 5.—The Virginia state court of appeals has upheld the validity of the election which established the city manager plan of government for [illegible]

CRADLE IS LESS SAFE THAN WORLD-WIDE WAR

New York, Oct. 5.—Since Dr. S. Josephine Baker stated that "there is three times as much danger in being a baby in a cradle in a crowded city as in being a soldier in the trenches in France," she has been asked to prove her statemet.

"According to Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States," she said, "in the last six months of 1916 only a little more than 1 per cent of the Frenchmen under arms were lost. His estimate included missing and prisoners as well as killed. This period covered the great Somme offensive, the fall drive of the Germans against Verdun, and other active military operations. In 1917 in New York city the death rate of infants under 1 year of age was 88.8 out of 1,000. The figures per thousand for other ages were: Between 1 and 2 years, 24.40; 2 to 3 years, 10.08; 3 to 4 years, 6.66; 4 to 5 years, 5.31. The death rate under 5 years of age was nearly 3 per cent.

"The figures given out by M. Tardieu are based on the number of Frenchmen under arms as well as those engaged in actual fighting. The men in the trenches are relieved every few days and their places taken by others, but in the six months period every man at the front has been in combat.

"Why do babies run a greater risk than soldiers? The answer is, Crowded living conditions, undernourishment both of babies and mothers, lack of proper medical attention and insufficient laws for the protection of women workers. A great peril to the babies is the fact that mothers work before the babies are born and soon afterward, which weakens them physically."

RETIREMENT BILL URGED.

Washington, Oct. 5.—At a meeting of organized government employes plans were perfected to stimulate interest and secure the early passage of the McKellar-Keating retirement bill for aged government workers. This bill has been reported favorably by a senate committee and is now on the senate calendar. It is yet being considered by a committee on the house side.

Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Postal Employes, who is chairman of the publicity committee of the government retirement forces, says the government is now paying over $3,000,000 to outworn workers.

"This fact is overlooked by our opponents, who ignore the humanitarian side of this legislation and stress the importance of economy," said the trade unionist.

"The main features of this bill provide that employes shall contribute 2 1-2 per cent of their salaries and the government a like amount. When an employe has been in the service 30 years and reaches the age of 67 he will be retired with an annuity of $50 a month. In the case of railway mail clerks, mechanics and letter carriers, they will be retired at the age of 65. It is estimated that the employes' 2 1-2 per cent will be sufficient to finance this retirement for 10 years. Then appropriations by the government will be necessary."

LABOR SUPPLY YET LARGE.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 5.—At a conference of citizens called for the purpose of rounding up labor slackers it was stated that there is much human energy being wasted in some of the polite professions, and even in ship yards in this city several hundred men may be recruited by filling their easy jobs with men less physically perfect. Secretary Stack of the central labor council suggested that a thorough investigation would uncover much misdirected effort in industry and of unproductive work of professional and business men. This investigation would also show, the trade unionist declared, that the enormous turnover of labor is where low wage standards prevail.

MORE ROCKEFELLERISM.

New York, Oct. 5.—The Midvale Steel and Ordnance company invites employes to meet with officers of the company to consider plans of mutual co-operation. Hereafter these workers will have representation in all matters governing their relations with the corporation.

Eastern newspapers are delighted with this "concession," which one editor declares "is in line with the spirit of the age," but which is only an extension of the Rockefeller plan in Colorado which gives the workers the shadow of collective bargaining while the company holds fast to the substance.

GIRLS FORM UNION.

Sedalia, Mo., Oct. 5.—Girl employes of the Brown-Evans overall factory have been dissatisfied with low wages and poor working conditions. One of the girls was discovered talking unionism and she was discharged. About 60 other girls quit, and now the company has a first-class strike on its hands and must hereafter reckon with an affiliate of the United Garment Workers' union.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Portland, Ore., Oct. 5.—Organized electricians employed by the local street car company have asked for wage increases.

CAR MEN FORM UNION.

Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 5.—Carmen have organized and affiliated with the [illegible]

AGITATORS AN EFFECT EMPLOYERS ADVISED

Madison, Wis., Oct. 5.—At a public hearing held by representatives of the federal department of labor employers pleaded that they "had no trouble until agitators and unionism appeared in their plants."

Editor Evjue, of the Capital Times, advises these employers "that the remedy for agitators is to eliminate evils and abuses that bring about agitation."

"These employers," says Editor Evjue, "are looking to everybody but themselves for places to lodge the blame of their trials and tribulations. Their own lack of vision in failing to see the trend and tendency of the times is never mentioned. They seem to feel that the trouble comes from external rather than internal sources.

"The trouble with our employers is that they are concerning themselves more with incidentals than with fundamentals. They fail to see that the remedy for agitators is to eliminate evils and abuses that bring about agitation; they see the agitator, but not the thing back of the agitator. They are unable to interpret the unrest and uneasiness in terms of present-day conditions and tendencies.

"Wages have been low and the workers are using the weapon of collective bargaining and unionism to bring about industrial justice. All other questions and troubles are but manifestations of this issue.

"Our employers are in the position of trying to cure a cancer by the use of salve. They think their troubles would be ended with the elimination of 'agitators.'

"The employers say they are in favor of labor organizations. But they fight the recognition of the unions with dogged persistency. In other words—they are in favor of shooting clubs but they are opposed to the use of shotguns. They favor labor organizations as long as the workmen do not avail themselves of the power which organization brings them.

"Our employers must recognize the right of men to organize. They must recognize the eight-hour day. Society has made up its mind pretty definitely on those questions. Our employers can not oppose the spirit and trend of the times.

"If they continue to do so they can not look around for other shoulders on which to place their troubles, they must look to themselves."

PAPER MILL STRIKE WON.

Oregon City, Ore., Oct. 5.—Paper mill workers have won their 11-months' strike against the Crown-Willamette Paper company and other plants in this vicinity. Every striker will be reinstated in his former position and the unions will furnish necessary employes as far as is possible. The collective bargaining policy of the national war labor board is accepted, and the question of hours and wages will be arranged on the basis of the national war labor board's award in the case of eastern paper mill workers and their employers. The companies further agree to end their victimizing policy toward trade unionists.

The Crown-Willamette company has agreed to abandon its individual contact with employes, which it forced strikebreakers to accept after the United States supreme court ruled, last December, that where an employer secured these pledges from workers not to join a union, they will be protected by injunction process.

About 2,000 workers were involved in this strike, which was one of the most extensive in the history of the northwest.

CAR MEN'S BIG GAIN.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 5.—The newly-organized Street Car Men's union has defeated the company's effort to block organization and forced the management to enter a wage conference. Rates are increased 11 cents an hour or an average of $1 a day.

Non-unionists who stood at a safe distance on the side lines during the dispute, will accept, of course, the additional $1 a day. They will not join the organization, as it is a question of principle to remain "free and independent."

This puts them in an advantageous position. They can retain the good will of the company and also enjoy any gains the union may secure.

TO DEVELOP HIGHWAYS.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The highways transport committee of the council of national defense has worked out a program for the use of highways during the war and thereafter.

At a conference with the committee, Secretary of the Interior Lane said this fitted into his plan for putting millions of returned soldiers and their families on small farms which can be carved from the great areas of public domain now either unused or in need of reclamation.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU FREE.

New Orleans, Oct. 5.—Because of organized labor's activity, Hans Jacobson, state director of the United States employment service, has defeated the efforts of large employing interests to depose him from office. The unionists have found the state director was playing a fair game, and refused to use his office for purposes other than those intended.

WOMAN HANDLES MONEY.

Seattle, Oct. 5.—While it is not the first time that woman has handled the money of members of Electrical Workers' union No. 46, these unionists have made the practice official by electing Miss Margaret Whitten financial secretary. The office is salaried one and is [illegible]

BRITISH LABOR PARTY DISCUSSED BY RUSSELL

New York, Oct. 5.—In an interview in a local newspaper on conditions in Europe, from where he has just returned, Charles Edward Russell, magazine writer, makes this statement of the composition and tendencies of the British Labor party:

"The British Labor party at the present time is a composite organization made up of numerous subsidiary units, like the Independent Labor party, the British Socialist party, and other organizations. It holds now about 50 seats in the house of commons and it is fairly certain, if there is to be an election, that the number of seats of this party will be increased. The increase will probably be marked, because the British Labor party works in this fashion: If the Independent Labor party puts up a man in a certain borough and he is elected, he is immediately counted as a member of the British Labor party, because the British Labor party has indorsed him. In other words, the British Labor party is a loose term under the head of which fall a number of organizations, which, curiously enough, seem to be divergent and irreconcilable in their views with respect to certain important issues.

"Thus the Independent Labor party is out-and-out pacifist, whereas the majority of the organizations whose members constitute the British Labor party appear to be supporting the war. The British Labor party held a meeting in London. To an outsider the thing seemed to be extremely confused. The meeting broke off its relations with the government, abrogating its so-called treaty of peace, by which the Labor party agreed to go along and support the Lloyd George government in its prosecution of the war. At the same time, the party allowed the various representatives, who are ministers in the Lloyd George government, to continue to hold their positions—leaving the entire situation in a state of complete obscurity as to exactly where the party stood."

LIVING COSTS INCREASE.

Washington, Oct. 5.—Figures issued by the bureau of labor statistics show that retail prices of food in the United States for August, this year, increased 2 per cent over those of July, this year. Pork chops and eggs show the greatest increase. Bread, potatoes and coffee did not change.

These August prices, as compared with August, last year, increased 15 per cent. Hens increased 38 per cent; chuck roast, 30 per cent; round steak, 29 per cent; rib roast, 28 per cent; sirloin steak, plate boiling beef, bacon and rice, 26 per cent each. Beans, sugar, bread and coffee were cheaper in August of this year than in August, 1917.

For the five-year period, August 15, 1913, to August 15, 1918, all food combined showed a price increase of 70 per cent. All the 17 articles, for which prices have been obtained for five years, show increases of 52 per cent and over. Meal advanced 127 per cent; lard and flour, 106 per cent each; potatoes, 105 per cent.

Based on the average price for 1913 as 100, the retail price index number for all articles of food combined on August 15, 1918, was 171, compared with 167 for July, 1918.

WILL EMPLOY MORE WOMEN.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The United States employment service has arranged plans whereby large numbers of men now engaged in non-essential employment will be pushed into war work by the force of public opinion. Community labor boards will be instructed to prepare and publish lists of occupations in which men should be replaced by women.

These lists will probably include sales clerks and floorwalkers in every sort of mercantile establishment; clerical, cashier and office staffs in mercantile, manufacturing and financial houses and in the offices of transportation companies and other public utilities; waiters, attendants and many other occupations.

WOULD AID HOME BUYING.

Washington, Oct. 5.—Creation of a "soldiers' and seamen's federal home-founding commission," a government corporation with a capital stock of $50,000,000 to lend money to soldiers, seamen and marines, in aiding them to buy homes, is proposed in a bill introduced by Congressman Morgan of Oklahoma.

Loans would run for 60 years, payable on an amortization plan at 5 per cent interest, and might equal 90 per cent of the value of the home. The secretary of the interior and four others, appointed by the president, would form a commission to administer the law.

TRUST DON'T AMERICANIZE.

Gary, Ind., Oct. 5.—At the second mass meeting of workers employed in plants controlled by the steel trust, it was necessary to hold an overflow meeting which was larger than the one inside the hall. As an indication of the Americanizing (?) policy of the steel trust the trade unionists were compelled to furnish speakers who could talk in Spanish, Polish, Serbian, Russian and other foreign languages.

URGE FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Austin, Tex., Oct. 5.—Allied printing craftsmen in this state are conducting an educational campaign in favor of the free text book amendment to the Texas constitution, which will be voted on next month.

FIRE FIGHTERS UNITE.

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 5.—Municipal firemen in this city have organized an affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters, [illegible]

FEW RICH AMERICANS TAKE LIBERTY BONDS

New York, Oct. 5.—While America's immensely rich are screaming their support of democracy's war, they are permitting those of small and moderate means to float Uncle Sam's liberty bonds while they place their money in investments that pay bigger dividend than 4¼ per cent.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo did not make the above direct charge but it was the substance of a statement by him in a speech at a mass meeting called to inaugurate the fourth liberty loan campaign.

"In the third liberty loan," said Secretary McAdoo, "18,000,000 Americans subscribed for liberty bonds. It is a very remarkable fact that of this vast number of patriotic Americans, all but 22,500 bought bonds in amounts ranging from $50 to $10,000. Only 22,500, including corporations, bought liberty bonds of the third loan in excess of $10,000. It would be preposterous to say that there are only 22,500 men, women, and corporations in America able to lend more than $10,000 each to their government on liberty bonds. The record of the third liberty loan conclusively shows that the great mass of the American people, the men and women of small and moderate means, were highly patriotic and did their duty splendidly, whereas only 22,500 persons and corporations among America's wealthier classes bought bonds above the $10,000 mark. I would not intentionally draw any inferences from these facts which would do injustice to wealthy corporations and to the men and women in America of large and easy circumstances, but these figures at least indicate that they did not respond to the call of the government in the third liberty loan commensurately with their ability to help."

SEAMEN APPEALED TO.

Washington, Oct. 5.—President Wilson has issued an appeal "to all those on land or sea who have followed a seafaring life" to return to the sea and man the boats now carrying soldiers, munitions and supplies to Europe.

"No more honorable or serviceable task can come to any of our people than that of manning our merchant marine," he says.

The president shows a knowledge of the requirements of skilled seamen, and vessel owners who favor coolie and other cheap, inexperienced labor, will find little consolation in this proclamation.

The president notifies these vessel owners that it is their duty to "give to the young men such shipmates and such treatment as will cause them to respect the service and build up within them a desire to make it their life work.

"There can be no safe, efficient management of vessels that does not include a large proportion of officers and crew having skill and experience," he says.

"Having in mind the brilliant record of the American merchant marine, the honorable position it occupies in economic affairs, and the important part it plays in winning the war, every seaman should give to the service the best that is in him and should not hesitate to accept deferred classification when the government has decided that such deferred classification is necessary, no matter how eager he may be to join the fighting forces of the army or navy."

PICTURE PLAYERS IN LINE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 5.—Motion picture players of this city and vicinity have organized the Motion Picture Players' union. The union consists of stars, leading men and women, utility men and women, cowboys, cow girls and those used in ensemble scenes.

The Citizen, published by organized labor, makes this comment on the new union:

"For years these highly-intelligent men and women have been in a trance, during which they persuaded themselves to believe that, being identified with a profession, they had nothing in common with wage earners.

"They were encouraged in this belief by the cunning promoters, who have grown fabulously rich from the profits of the motion-picture industry.

"With childish faith the men and women who have made these fortunes possible have waited for years for the managers and promoters to pay adequate salaries to motion-picture players other than famous stars, but they have waited in vain.

"Growing tired of promises, and at last realizing that the Mary Pickfords and Charlie Chaplins constitute a very small per cent of the motion-picture players, they decided there is much wisdom in the adage 'the Lord helps those who help themselves,' and they proceeded to help themselves in a practical manner. They have formed a union and applied to the A. F. of L. for a charter."

EDITOR IS NEW IRON CHIEF.

Dallas, Tex., Oct. 5.—At the annual convention of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers P. J. Morrin, representing St. Louis (Mo.) local No. 18, was elected president. The new executive has been editor and manager of the Trades Council Union News, the official newspaper of the St. Louis building trades council.

The convention adopted this resolution:

"Your committee concurs in the efforts that have been made to secure an amalgamation of the boiler makers, sheet metal workers and the iron workers, and recommends that the matter be placed in the hands of the incoming international officers to continue negotiations with the metal trades."

CO-OPS ORGANIZE.

Denison, Tex., Oct. 5.—Railroad brotherhood men have started a co-operative movement and invite all other unionists to join with them in tackling Mr. H. C. of L. Two thousand shares of $10 each will be issued and no person will be permitted to have an interest in more than 10 shares. Each shareholder will be entitled to only one vote, regardless of the number of shares he may own.

ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

Springfield, Ill., Oct. 5.—The state industrial commission reports that the number of accidents in this state last August recorded at its office, was 3,800, an increase of 1,136 over the same month a year ago. The number of fatal accidents increased from 28 to 51 and the non-fatal from 2,637 to 3,749.

CONTRACTORS UP TO DATE.

Augusta, Ga., Oct. 5.—The Builders' association of this city has recognized trade unionism for the first time in [illegible]

EQUAL SUFFRAGE PLEA REJECTED BY SENATE

Washington, Oct. 5.—The senate has rejected the president's plea for equal suffrage, and by a vote of 53 to 31 defeated the joint resolution, passed by the house, which provided for votes for women. The vote was two short of the needed two-thirds.

Fifty-six votes were necessary to pass the resolution. Included in the 31 votes against was that of Senator Jones of New Mexico, who favored the resolution, but who had his vote recorded with the majority to place himself in the parliamentary position of moving a reconsideration of the vote. With the prestige of the government behind them, suffrage advocates are hopeful of success before this congress adjourns.

In one of his best speeches the president asked the senate how he can appeal to the democratic forces of the world to stand behind him in this war for freedom when our own country denies woman equal suffrage.

In his clear English and fine diction the president told the senate that it is not a queston of physical aid—women are giving daily manifestation of their patriotism.

"If we be indeed democrats and wish to lead the world to democracy," he said, "we can ask other peoples to accept in proof of our sincerity and our ability to lead them whither they wish to be led nothing less persuasive and convincing than our actions. Our professions will not suffice. Verification must be forthcoming when verification is asked for. And in this case verification is asked for—asked for in this particular matter. You ask by whom? Not through diplomatic channels; not by foreign ministers. Not by the intimation of parlaments. It is asked for by the anxious, expectant, suffering peoples with whom we are dealing and who are willing to put their destinies in some measure in our hands, if they are sure that we wish the same things that they do."

"If we reject measures like this, in ignorance or definance of what a new age has brought forth, of what they have seen but we have not, they will cease to believe in us, they will cease to follow or to trust us."

LESS HOURS; LONGER LIFE.

Washington, Oct. 5.—"The more men we preserve in industry, the more lives are lengthened and the more we have for production," said Secretary of Labor Wilson at a conference of state and federal officials called to consider the enforcement of labor laws.

"It has been variously estimated that six to 10 workers in the rear are necessary to maintain a soldier in the trenches," he said. "That has made industry a much more important factor than it has ever been before.

"There has been an agitation for lowering of standards—or the argument that it would increase production. The assumption of a demand that a nine-hour day be substituted for an eight-hour day in mines arose from that. We found that anthracite coal miners working eight hours in 1917 were producing 2 per cent more coal than during 1915 and 1916 in a nine-hour day. In some industries, of course, this might not be true. But reduction of hours is not solely for the purpose of increasing productivity. It is designed to protect the worker in his leisure. Every effort that we can make is utilized to protect the life and health of the men in the trenches. If we can save life of the man before he reaches the trenches, man power is increased. Just so industry has to be safeguarded. It is just as important that we protect those engaged in industry as those on the battlefield. The more we preserve the more we have for production."

BUTCHER WORKERS GAIN.

Milwaukee, Oct. 5.—The F. C. Gross & Bros. Packing company has agreed to every wage increase and working conditions demand of Butcher Workmen's union No. 81.

Sedalia, Mo., Oct. 5.—Packing house employes have defeated a lockout and secured the eight-hour day and the 48-hour work week. Wages are advanced and double time will be paid for holidays with time and one-half for overtime.

Chicago, Oct. 5.—The Butcher Workman, official newspaper of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, says "it is becoming more and more apparent that our organization is steadily gaining recognition of its demands even where it was once thought that any attempt to improve working conditions would be futile."

PORTO RICO TERRORISM.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Oct. 5.—Terrorism against trade unionists continues in this island, despite protests by the workers. The most recent outrage was the clubbing by police of more than 30 women strikers who were employed in a tobacco shop. Over 400 women suspended work because of conditions.

The clubbing of these women is but one of the many evil actions against Porto Rico workers. These wrongs cover every phase of Porto Rican life as is shown by the action of a recent mass meeting in this city which demanded fair dealing by local military service boards instead of favoring rich classes. The meeting also urged that the United States commission, which is intended to investigate Porto Rico affairs, be here the latter part of November if possible.

RENT PROFITEERS WARNED.

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 5.—Governor Edge has issued a proclamation "warning landlords who are guilty of rent profiteering to desist from the practice lest they make necessary extraordinary measures which would unavoidably impose a hardship upon the innocent as well as the guilty."

The proclamation adds that it may become necessary to appoint dictators of housing, as well as of food and fuel, and that if the necessity arises "New Jersey will not hesitate to take the initiative."

NO NEW NEWSPAPERS.

Washington, Oct. 5.—The post office department calls attention of postmasters to the ruling of the war industries board regarding the prohibition of new newspapers. Inquiries as to whether a new publication may be established should be addressed to the war industries board, pulp and paper section, Washington. Conservation of paper is behind this order.

GET GOOD WAGE INCREASE.

Bloomington, Ill., Oct. 5.—Employes of the B. E. Constant Manufacturing company, organized in a federal union, have secured a union shop agreement and wage increases that range from [illegible]